Mangree language

Mangree (pronunciation approximately [maŋgreː]) is a poorly attested, unclassified, and extinct language of the interior of West Africa, possibly from what is now Ivory Coast. It is only attested in a list of a dozen words collected in the late 18th century.[1] There is some indication that it might have been a Kru language, but there is not enough data to classify it.

Mangree	
Region	West Africa
Extinct	18th or 19th century?[1]
Language family	Niger–Congo? ▪ unclassified; Kru ?; Kwa ?; Mande ? ▪ **Mangree**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	*None* (mis)
Glottolog	mang1422 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mang1422)[2]

Contents

Location
Word list
Classification
References
External links

Location

The Mangree were reported to live adjacent to the Kanga, not far from the Mandinga and Amina. A large river formed the border between the Mangree and the Gien. Fodor believes that the location was somewhere around 7° north latitude and that the river was either the Sassandra or the Bandama.[1]

Word list

Fodor reports the following 11 words:[1]

god: *yankombum* ('jankombum')
sky: *tata*
sun: *lataa*
human: *mia*
foot: *trippi*
head: *tri*
man: *laniu*
woman: *auvee* ('auwee')
child: *pikkeninne*
father: *amee*
mother: *pakkabel*

A brief summary of the source repeats 'head', 'man', 'woman' and adds *ichi* ('itchi') 'water'.[3]

Classification

The Mangree language was said to be little different from Gien, which would suggest it was Kru. However, the known vocabulary is not obviously Kru, at least as it was recited and transcribed. The informants were Kanga (also Kru) who said they spoke the language well.

Fodor suggests that the word for God may be the same as Twi *o-nyàŋkɔ́pɔŋ* 'God'. The word for 'father' resembles Ewe *ame* 'human' (and possibly came from a translation of the phrase 'heavenly Father', in which case *tata* might be 'father' and *amee* 'sky'), while the word for 'human' resembles Gien *me* 'human'. The word for 'head' resembles both Twi (with an *i* vowel) and several Kru languages (with a *u* vowel). Fodor suggests that the word for 'foot' may be a compound, 'head of the leg'.

The word for 'child' resembles Portuguese *pequenino* (and English *piccaninny*), which is widespread in West Africa pidgins and creoles. Fodor was not able to find parallels for the other words in Kru or Kwa languages.

The vocabulary that resembles Twi may be loanwords.[1]

References

1. Fodor, István 1975 [1789] *Pallas und andere afrikanische Vokabularien vor dem 19. Jahrhundert: Ein Beitrag zur Forschungsgeschichte*
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Mangree" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mang1422). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. R.G. Latham, 1848, 'On the present state and recent progress of Ethnographical Philology', in *Report of the seventeenth meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science*, p. 176.

External links

- Mangree section of *Pallas und andere afrikanische Vokabularien vor dem 19. Jahrhundert*

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mangree_language&oldid=934525128"

This page was last edited on 7 January 2020, at 01:03 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.